

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for production of a phenolic novolak, comprising:
a step of conducting a heterogeneous reaction of a phenol and an aldehyde in the presence of a phosphoric acid and an unreactive oxygen-containing organic solvent as a reaction cosolvent.

Claim 2 (Original): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein the phosphoric acid is 5 parts by mass or more per 100 parts by mass of the phenol.

Claim 3 (Original): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein the phosphoric acid is 25 parts by mass or more per 100 parts by mass of the phenol.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 3]], wherein the reaction cosolvent is 5 parts by mass or more per 100 parts by mass of the phenol.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 3]], wherein the reaction cosolvent is 10 to 200 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the phenol.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 5]], wherein the reaction cosolvent is at least one element selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, a polyalcohol-based ether, a cyclic ether, a polyalcohol-based ester, a ketone and a sulfoxide.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 6]], wherein 0.40 to 1.0 mol of the aldehyde is reacted with 1 mol of the phenol.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 7]], wherein a surface active agent is further present in the step.

Claims 9 (Currently Amended): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim [any of claims] 1 [[to 8]], wherein the heterogeneous reaction is conducted under pressure of 0.03 to 1.50 MPa.